Today's News - April 17, 2006

ArcSpace takes us to a new Bilbao hotel that is a perforated "sculpture." – Kotkin brings us "New Suburbanism." – Toronto's renaissance: "it's not about buildings, it's about human content." - Hume (and several others) takes on "What if Toronto..." – A town square in Maryland gets it right. – The South Bronx takes inspiration from Bogotá. – NYC's test cases for really green office towers. – There's a "cause for hope" at Ground Zero. – At the Getty Villa in Malibu, new and the old are combined to make the place "superb." is a "wonderful building." – The Phillips Collection expansion in Washington, DC, suffers from a case of "facadism" (and a few other shortcomings). – An irreverent British firm offers everything but "facadism"; so what will they do when they hit the big time? – Young designers stir the pot with ideas for Chicago's Navy Pier. – Q&A's with a French developer who believes in green, and an American architect in India who lives in a village and plans for the world. – Deadlines: World Habitat Awards; an international survey of planners; and an interesting job opportunity.

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Legorreta + Legorreta: Sheraton Abandoibarra Hotel, Bilbao, Spain

Toward a New Suburbanism: The predominant form of urbanism in the twenty-first century will reside outside the city. By Joel Kotkin- Metropolis Magazine

The billion-dollar baby. The idea of creating something vital seemed doomed at every turn. Now...if the people at the helm of Toronto's renaissance don't have ears for simple message — it's not about buildings, it's about human content — then all this effort may yet have been in vain. [links to related articles]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

What If: Hogtown the beautiful: For Toronto to morph from an ugly duckling into a place we can be proud of, we need to focus much more on design and planning, perhaps starting with our schools. By Christopher Hume — Tony Coombes; Brown and Storey Architects [links to other "What If's"]- Toronto Star

In Rockville's Public Square, Doing as the Romans: ...its physical form, geometric proportions and visual qualities are already evident...a special urban space...lt will demonstrate why public open spaces conceived in the abstract...often yield dead spaces. By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post

Bikes Connecting Bogota and the South Bronx: City residents are aiming to build an 11-mile network of bikeways and parks in an unexpected place – the South Bronx...taking as their inspiration another city you might not immediately think of – Bogota, Columbia. – Majora Carter/Sustainable South Bronx; Enrique Penalosa- WNYC (public radio)

7 World Trade Center and Hearst Building: New York's Test Cases for Environmentally Aware Office Towers -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Foster & Partners; FX Fowle- New York Times

Ground Zero's Saving Grace: The first building to rise from the ashes of the World Trade Center is cause for hope...7 WTC...a rediscovery of the extraordinary sensuality of glass, a renewal of our romance with the elemental box. By Karrie Jacobs -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Carpenter; Jenny Holzer- Metropolis Magazine

Getty Villa works on many layers: Archeology-dig metaphor brings unity to renovation. Wonderful buildings are rare...The architects...invented a brilliant way to pull new and old into one complex. By Robert Campbell — Machado and Silvetti- Boston Globe

Dwelling on a Mediocre Past: Phillips Addition Hides Behind Apartments' Unremarkable Facade. By Benjamin Forgey -- Cox, Graae and Spack-Washington Post

Give us a frill: Are decorative facades the start of a whole new housing trend? Steve Rose meets the men from Fat [Fashion Architecture Taste]...they could find themselves in the mainstream. Then what would they do? -- Sean Griffiths, Sam Jacob, Charles Holland/Fat; Urban Splash- Guardian (UK)

Young designers float ideas for new Navy Pier: ...competition did what it was supposed to do: Besides being a lot of fun, it stirred the pot and introduced ideas of substance rather than simply being a beauty contest. By Blair Kamin — RTKL; Forrec- Chicago Tribune

Eco Housing Questions Answered: Q&A with Domenico Provenzano, developer of France's first large-scale, multi-housing sustainable construction and development project - ECOHABITAT- CarbonFree (UK)

"I learn from Indian villagers": Q&A with American-born architect Christopher Charles
Benninger has lived and worked in India for the past 33 years- Indian Express

World Habitat Awards 2006: for projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems; deadline: June 1- Building and Social Housing Foundation

International Survey of Status of Women and Men in Planning; deadline: May 31- Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Employment Opportunity: Director, Mayors' Institute on City Design, Washington, D.C.; application deadline: May 15- Mayors' Institute on City Design

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